

Idle Hours ∞ ∞
of a Busy Lawyer

By Robert M. Peadro ∞

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IDLE HOURS

OF A

BUSY LAWYER

BY

ROBERT M. PEADRO



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To Whom it May Concern:

This little book, "Idle Hours of a Busy Lawyer," is dedicated to the busy, that they may enlarge its contents during spare moments; to those having leisure hours, that they may contemplate possibilities; and to the public in general, as a subject of comment.

THE AUTHOR.

To The Reader:

This book is written, not with the intent to complete a word picture in every detail, but with the sole object of giving a mere outline as it were, and leaving to you the pleasure of filling in, with your own imagination, the minor essentials. Hence it may properly be characterized as mere food for thought, and in the absence of the text book, furnish substance for candid consideration.

ROBERT M. PEADRO.

Sullivan, Illinois, January, 1910.

Chapter I

John and Mary were husband and wife, and had been married about twenty years. During all this time they had resided upon the same little farm, with its not over-productive soil, and with only such improvements as were absolutely necessary to keep them and their children from being distressed during the long, cold winter months.

Indeed, the work had been hard for them both in order that their many children should be clothed and fed and each of them, as it arrived at school age, sent to the country school for three months in each year. This, however, they had so far managed to do, as their health had always been the very best, and their doctor bills few. Now however, the mother's health was failing, and the father was unable to stand the fatigue of a long and hard day's toil in the fields.

There were ten of the fat, chubby children to be seated at the table at each meal, five on either side, while the father sat at the head and the mother at the foot. Besides these ten, there was

one in the mother's lap, and the baby still in the cradle. The oldest was seventeen years of age, and while standing up in a row, the heads of the children grew higher and higher like a flight of stairs, one just a little above the other standing next to it. It was the happiest of happy families. There were neither quarrels nor scufflings, and each endeavored as much as lay in its power to make all others happy.

One day when the parental care seemed more than could be borne, and the long day's toil had been ended, the mother said to the father; "John, I believe if we were to place some of our children in the 'Resting House' it would be much easier for us, and much better for the children themselves. What do you think of it?"

"Well now," said John, "I have been thinking of that myself for some time, and only hoped you would mention the matter first, as I hesitated to do it on your account, and am now only too glad that you have spoken of it. I know it would be best for some of the smallest ones to rest, so that it will not be so hard upon you and me. All the others will soon be large enough to help us with the work, and then work for themselves, so as to earn their own living. Then when they have grown up

and out of the way, we will go to the 'Resting Place,' and bring the little fellows home, and that will make us feel young again, as well as enable us to give them better opportunities than we possibly can do as things are now."

In his manner the subject had been brought up and the matter finally agreed to by them both. And though it was a hard matter even to think of such a thing, when the good of the child is the only question for discussion and consideration, they, like all parents, made up their minds to bear the brunt themselves, each taking a secret vow that not by word or look should the other be aware of the dreadful pain they were each bound to suffer.

It did not take the husband and wife long to select the children who were to be taken to the Resting Place. After dinner the removing car was called, and the four smaller of the children, accompanied by both father and mother, taken to the marble building where they were to be placed to rest. This was a building constructed of marble, with neither wood nor metal as a part.

On the inside there were rows of marble cases of various sizes, into which the persons to be rested were placed, after being put to sleep. These

four children were now taken into a room that was filled with some peculiar odor, which in a short time caused them to breathe drowsily and finally to fall into a deep and quiet sleep.

The mother and father selected the marble drawer in which each child was to be encased while the party in charge placed a soft pillow for each head. The children were then laid gently in, a cover of marble placed on top of the drawer and so securely sealed that neither air nor moisture could enter. Each of the cases was then carefully marked and stored away in the opening in the wall, in one of the many long rows which contained hundreds of others.

In a marble leafed book kept for that purpose, entries were made, showing the name, age and description of each child, and the time when the cases were to be opened. The small charges were paid by the father, and the two parents went sorrowfully back to their home, yet fully realizing that what had been done was for the best.

The lessening of their burdens of toil, in this manner, soon restored health to the mother, and the assistance of the other children, as they grew older and stronger year by year, enabled the father to live with much less hard work. There were few-

er now to be clothed and fed, and small savings were possible.

One after the other of the remaining children grew to manhood and womanhood, and were married and moved to houses and homes of their own, until but two remained, one a boy to help the father, and the other a girl, who did the greater part of the housework for the mother.

Then it was that one day the father said to the mother: "Mary, I think we can now go to the Resting House, and get two of the children, and bring them home. We will get the two least ones, as we can care for them now without much trouble." And Mary in reply told her husband, "I have myself been thinking of that for a few days, and have made up my mind that it is the very best thing which we can do."

So it was that the father and mother made their second trip to the Resting House, which they had visited just ten years before. When their wishes were made known, the marble registry book was examined and the proper identifications made, the cases containing two of the children were drawn out, the seals loosened, and the two children taken into another room, which was filled with some queer-smelling odors.

Here, in a few moments, the children awoke, and the youngest one cried out "Mamma! mamma!" as the mother pressed it to her bosom, and the other called to its papa as it encircled his neck with its little arms. To all appearances and in fact, these two children were as fresh and healthy as though they were awakened from a little sleep on a warm afternoon in the summer time, and did not know that they had been kept from their parents an hour.

These two children were taken home and cared for by their parents, and on reaching school age were sent to the red school house just around the turn in the lane. Of evenings and mornings, after and before school, they assisted the parents in doing the chores, at first, and as they grew older aided them in the real work itself. They grew up healthy and large, and in many ways relieved their parents of the greater portion of all their labors. This made life easy, and filled the hours with joy. The father's earnings were carefully saved until he was able to add more and better land to his once little farm, and now dwelt in a home with many of the conveniences, while his herds of horses and droves of cattle were grazing in many pastures.

It was just ten years after they had made the

second trip to the marble house, and twenty years since the first, that the father and mother visited the Resting Place for the third time, and brought the two remaining children back to their home. These last two were as fresh and vigorous as they were on the day that they were taken there twenty years before.

On reaching home they were somewhat surprised at the changes which had taken place, since, as they said, they were away getting a little sleep. The father's whiskers were now gray, and the dark curls of the mother almost white. The house, the home of their childhood years, where they had so often played, was gone and a new one stood in its place. The horses and cows, the dog and cats, were all alike strangers to them, and it required quite a few days before they knew everyone and became as familiar with them as they were years before. Their fun and frolic went on undisturbed until they were grown.

On the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding day, the father and mother requested their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to come to the old home and take dinner with them. Great preparations were made, long tables were prepared and twelve children, with their wives and hus-

bands, sat at one, the father at the head and the mother at the other end. There were twelve on each side and the two parents made in all twenty-four sons and sons-in-law, daughters and daughters-in-law.

The grandchildren at another table numbered fifty-three, while at the third table there were eighteen great-grandchildren. This dinner was of that kind which only a farmer's wife can prepare, and such a one as can be enjoyed by persons healthy and cheerful. Every one ate to his heart's content. Times past and gone were talked over, and plans for the future discussed by the men, while the women were chatting as they always do upon such happy occasions. The patriarchal husband and wife being the guests of honor, each vied with the others to make the occasion one to be long remembered and cherished as the happiest hours of their lives.

Like all others, this dinner was over, and John, the husband, father and grandfather, standing up at the head of the table, said: "My dear children and grandchildren, Mary and I have made up our minds that we will go to the Resting House, and remain for one hundred years. All that we have, except the sum of one thousand dollars in gold,

which we intend taking with us, we turn over to you. Use it as you would your own property, for there is nothing which any of us see here, which will remain or be here when we return, except the farm. Everything else sell or use as you wish.

“As to the farm it must be used by all, each for one year, beginning with the oldest child; and when all the children have had it each for his time, then the grandchildren shall use it in the same manner, beginning with the oldest and ending with the youngest.”

Then they were bidden good bye, and the father and mother, accompanied by two children, departed for the marble structure, known as “The Resting House.” Cases were selected, marked so as to be easily identified, the entry made in the marble book by deep chiseled lines, “Awake at the end of one hundred years,” and they were taken into the drowsy room and soon fell into a deep sleep. Their bodies were placed in marble cases and stored away in the long row along the side of the wall, there to rest till the time for the awakening came. The one thousand dollars was duly registered and deposited also in a place prepared for that purpose, to be delivered upon their awakening also.

Year after year passed and went by, till at last

the one hundredth anniversary of the day of rest had come. Then the person in charge examined the record, brought forth the gold, drew out the cases containing the bodies, took them to the awakening department, and in a moment the father and mother were awakened as if from a short sleep.

The husband was the first to speak, and he said to the keeper: "What does this mean? I paid you for keeping us here for one hundred years. You have not even so much as permitted us to get sound asleep, before you call us again." But the keeper told them that they had been there for one hundred years, that he had been going by the entry as shown by the record; that he knew it was right, and as if to convince them handed the one thousand dollars back which had been received for safe keeping.

This, however, was not sufficient, and the husband said to his wife: "Mary, let us be going; we have been here but a few minutes, and if we hurry home, we will see the children before they get the dinner dishes put away, or their horses out of the barn."

It was easy to see by the expression on the good woman's face, though she said nothing, that she

was not in the least pleased. But at last she did say :
“I had hoped to stay here long enough to be rested up a little after getting the dinner which I prepared today, but it is a sad disappointment. John, let's hurry home.”

The thousand dollars was put into the husband's pocket, and upon the wife taking his arm, they walked slowly towards the door. When it was reached they looked outside. What a change! It was a new world to them. For a long time they gazed and looked, but said nothing. Then at last the husband said : “Gosh, Mary, what do you think of this?” But all she could say in answer to the question was : “Land sakes!”

They then called the keeper, and asked him where their home was, but he told them that he was only fifty years of age, and did not know, that they would have to ask some one much older than he was. Then they asked the keeper to give them the name of some person living near, who could tell them what they wished to know ; but the keeper said he knew of no one in that part of the country who was as much as one hundred years old.

While they were standing at the door, and wondering, as though they were visitors to the moon, or some other distant planet, a strange man came

up to them, and after looking them over closely said, "Are you my great-great-great-great grand-ma and grandpa?"

To this question the wife could make no reply except, "Land sakes!" While the husband with an effort said: "I do not know who we are. Everything is so changed we hardly know whether we are dead or alive. All I can say is that it is John and Mary, and we used to live near here, I guess. They say we have been asleep for one hundred years, but I don't believe it."

Then the man said they were the parties for whom he was looking, and was able to recognize them by the pictures which were hanging on the wall at home, upon which the dates were written upon which they should be awakened at the Resting House, and that he had come to take them home with him.

Then he gave to each of them some little globe-like trinket which he had taken from his vest pocket. There was a small tube on one side of it, and he told them to blow into the tube a little and they would then go home. This they both did, but if they had been surprised on looking out of the door of the Resting House, and seeing the changed condition of everything which they so well

knew, they were astonished now, for all three of them were rising far above the trees and houses, and sailing through the air as easily and gracefully as birds. The husband and wife were so busily engaged looking around over the changed country, that, when the man told them to press the little balls gently so they might alight, as they were now at home, they could not realize they had traveled three miles.

Upon their reaching the ground, the little globes were handed to the man, and by him put in his own pocket. John and Mary then began looking around, as if trying to locate some of the various things which they had left, as it then seemed to them, only an hour or so before. There was nothing of the kind to be seen. Even the house had disappeared, and a large mansion built in its place. Its sides, roof, floors and all were of glass or some kindred material, and when they entered into it, the first question asked of the man was by Mary, who said: "Where is the cook stove? Why, I see no fireplace. What do you do when it snows and gets cold? What do you do about cooking your victuals?"

William, for that was the name of the man who had called for them at the marble house, said:

“Grandma, you must not be surprised, for there are quite a few discoveries and improvements which have taken place in the last hundred years, while you were resting. I will be glad to show them, or some of them, to you and tell you about them.

“You asked about the stove and fireplace. Well, now, of course, I know such things were in use during your housekeeping time, but we now use neither. Come out here in the yard with me and I will show you where we get the heat for the house, when any is needed; but it is seldom we have to use any of it at all.”

They then followed William out in the yard, where he pointed to a pipe sticking out of the ground, and said: “Some years ago I had a hole bored down here through the crust of the earth. You know, or have read, that there is a great lake of molten substance on the inside of the earth, which is very hot. As soon as the cavity was reached, that intense heat came up out of the hole, and now supplies us for all purposes. It did away with all kinds of artificial heats, and stoves and fireplaces became a thing of the past.”

This so astonished John and Mary, that neither could even do more than gaze with their mouths

wide open, for a moment or two, but finally John drawled out: "Gosh, Mary, what do you think of that?" And Mary, as was her custom said: "Land sakes!"

But when they looked around and saw so many different kinds of flowers and trees, which they knew grew only in tropical regions, they were so much amazed that they could not ask any more questions at all, and were only hoping that William would say more to them about the strange things which surrounded them on every side. William appeared to understand this, and started by saying:

"We have these wells, or holes, all over the country now. In the fall of the year, when the weather begins to get cool or cold, we open them up, or at least as many as may be required, and by that means warm the whole atmosphere, so that there is now no more snows and but few, if any frosts. In fact we now have it arranged so that we can have summer anywhere and everywhere, the whole year round."

It took John and Mary a long while to collect themselves, so that they even believed they were at their old home.

A river of some considerable proportions had

skirted their farm on the east, forming the boundary line, and John and Mary now went down to where it was, or at least where it was at the time they began to take their rest. Instead of a sluggish current with muddy banks, they saw that all the water was confined to a concreted channel, and that instead of the gentle ripple of the once sluggish current, the water was flowing so swiftly that they could hear it hum as it passed by.

Near by they sat down in the shade of a tree, the like of which they had never seen. It was there that they talked over the many changes which had already been shown, and told to them, as well as taxed their imaginations to their fullest extent in anticipation of what the future might bring.

After a while William came to where they were, and told them that supper time had arrived, and requested them to accompany him to the house. There had been no woman seen on the premises by Mary, and this caused her to think that some one was going to ask her to prepare the supper. She was not in the least hungry after eating such a hearty anniversary dinner, and would under ordinary circumstances have said something to William to that effect; but as matters were she con-

cluded it was best to take things as they might come, and she kept quiet.

When they reached the house, William told them to sit down to the table. This they reluctantly did, as they were surprised, indeed, since there was not one thing on the table to be eaten, and worse than that, nothing in sight which might be cooked or prepared for food.

William sat at the head of the table, just as John had done years before, and in the self same way, only it was in another house than the one they were now in. There was a little machine-like contrivance, or as Mary afterwards called it, "contraption" upon a three-legged stool near where William sat. It was an insignificant looking affair indeed. A package of dirt-pure earth rested upon the corner of the table, and a spoon lay on the cloth near by. When Mary saw that this was all the preparation which had been made for supper, she was almost ready to get up and leave the table, for she knew she could not live on dirt, and dirt alone, even if she did eat it; and more than that, she was not even going to try any such an experiment to please anybody, though it would be bad manners to refuse.

Of course, William knew all that was passing in

the minds of his guests, and to relieve her he asked: "Grandparents, are you fond of fried chicken for supper?" And there being nothing else to say under the circumstances, they both said they were. But as they did not see anything at all to eat, they were wondering where the fried chicken was to come from.

William then scooped a couple of spoonfuls of the dirt into the hopper of the insignificant little machine, pushed a button, and out came the two pieces of fried chicken onto the plates which he held beneath the spouts. They were asked if they would like some potatoes, and to tell how they wished them fixed, —fried, boiled or baked; and on being told, William put one more spoonful of dirt into the hopper, pressed another button, and out came the potatoes just as ordered. Bread, butter and all other edibles which were called for appeared by the same process, simply putting in a spoonful of dirt, and by the push of a button.

This all appeared so simple and unbelievable to Mary that she thought she would test the machine, and see if it would do its work all the time, no matter what she might order, or what might be called for at any meal. In her lifetime, as it might be called for want of a better term, she had baked

many old fashioned "corn-dodgers." These were made out of corn meal, a little salt, and just enough water to thoroughly moisten, so that the simple compound might hold together as it was being tossed from hand to hand to get into the required shape to fit into the skillet, and occupy but one-third of the bottom.

She knew that there was but one way by which these "dodgers" could be cooked, and that was in a three-legged skillet which had been heated, and then set over some red hot coals of fire. When the "dodgers" were fitted in, then there was the skillet lid, with its turned up rim, placed over the skillet, when nearly red hot, and more live coals heaped upon it. Now she was going to call for some of these "dodgers," or rather ask William, as politely as she knew how. So she said: "William, I am very fond of 'corn dodgers' and if you have any handy I would like to have one nice and hot, and also some fresh butter to eat with it."

"Certainly, grandma," said William, "this machine is warranted to bring forth anything which the soil, air or water, or any combination of them will produce, either flesh, grain, or their component parts just ready for food, and I will try what I can do for you." So saying, he again put a

spoonful of dirt into the hopper, and pushed another and different button. Sure enough, out came the "dodger," hot as you please, and looking just as though it had been cooked in a skillet, with the red hot coals both over and under it. When it was handed to Mary she could only say "Land sakes, John, what will our neighbors say when I tell them about that little 'do-funny' there on the three-legged stool?"

As soon as supper was over William asked them if they would not like to take a trip around over the country, as there were so many changes that some of them, at least, might be interesting to them. To this they expressed a desire to go, and he again handed to each the small globe which he had given to them at the door of the marble house, and told them to blow a little breath in each through the small stem. Off they flew just as three birds might. They were not alone, as the whole heavens were dotted here and there with persons, who, like themselves, were out enjoying the cool and refreshing breeze of the evening.

Now both John and Mary were rather well posted in geography, as they had learned much of it while teaching their children in the evenings after their day's work had been completed, and in this

manner they became pretty well acquainted with the locations of the most important of the rivers and cities, and other noted places, and were all the while asking William as to certain of the many changes. Everything appeared so different from what it was pictured to them, from the knowledge and information which they had obtained from the various books of geography and history.

For instance, there was the Mississippi river, which now was flowing in a comparatively straight line from the City of St. Louis to the City of New Orleans. They had always understood that the channel was a full mile in width, but now it was so small that it appeared not more than a few feet in width. This, as William explained, was brought about by the river's bed having been concreted from one end to the other, which so increased the current of the water that now there was mechanical power for all purposes in all the large cities located upon its banks. He also told them that all other principal rivers had been fixed in the same way.

After they had been up in the air for quite a while, John began to think it might be well enough to suggest to William that they go back home. It was possible that they get lost, and if so, there

was no one who was able to give them the necessary information which might enable him to find his home, or where it was so long ago. But William told them that they might as well as not take a nap while up in the pure air, and promised that he would stay awake and see that they did not drift out over the ocean. But Mary would not hear to this, and strongly insisted that they return home at once, which they did—sailing, sailing back to the old farm.

Getting up early on the following morning, John and Mary both became thirsty and wanted a drink of water. They went down on the side of the hill, where the spring was thought to be, and where it had for many years sent its little overflow to the creek. It was not there, and no sign of its former existence was to be seen. The branch itself had disappeared. When William saw them looking around he knew what it was they were wanting, and he told them that no one was now using any kind of water which came from wells or springs, but that they drank and used water from the great lakes. And when John asked him where the lakes were, William told him that they were about a thousand miles up north. Then Mary

said, "That is a long way to carry water, no matter how people might go for it."

But William soon explained that there had been a large tube, or water main, laid in the ground, which reached from the very center of Lake Michigan down to and across the Island of Cuba; that the tube or main was tapped at convenient places and lateral pipes laid, until now there was this pure water carried almost all over the entire country; that there was no longer any town or city which owned its own water plant, but all used from this vast supply, as carried through the tubes and pipes.

"This water here in the yard," said he, "comes out of a small tube which is itself attached to one of these lateral pipes. It is always fresh and nice and cool, and much more healthy than any which might be obtained from any other source. So they went to the proper place, and had one of the finest drinks of pure lake water, which Mary pronounced as the best drink she had ever had in all her life.

It was not long until Mary said to John, "I do not like to be asking questions all the while, but I should like to know why it is that we have seen no horses, hogs, cattle or sheep anywhere around on the farm. I do not understand the matter yet.

And since it seems that you will not, I am going to ask him myself, and find out just where he does keep them."

Now John himself had missed all these animals, probably before his wife spoke, but he had made up his mind not to cause William any more bother than he could help, and had for that reason kept moderately quiet. But he told his wife he was glad she was going to ask the question, for William seemed pleased when answering their many inquiries.

When they all sat down to the table, and she had glanced at that very insignificant contraption again, with its accompanying sack of dirt, Mary told William that she was very fond indeed of beef steak, and would be pleased the best in the world if he would prepare her a porterhouse, if one was handy.

"That is all right," said William, "the material for quite a nice one is here." So saying, he put a spoonful of the dirt in the hopper again, pushed another and different button from any he had before used for them, and in a short time there was one of the finest steaks she had ever seen, cooked to a finish, gravy and all. But when the plate with its nice, juicy steak was handed to Mary, she was

so astonished that she could hardly raise her own hand, and would have let it fall to the floor if the space between her body and the table had been larger, so as to let it pass between them, but she was sitting too close for that. Finally, after taking a bite or two of it, and being fully convinced that it was sure enough steak, she had made up her mind to test the thing once more, before she would give it up and be convinced that the contemptible little contraption could do so much, as William certainly supposed it could.

Then she thought of the cows, and how nice it would be for John and herself to have a glass of milk. She had always preferred sweet milk while John liked buttermilk the best. It was a hard job, but finally she succeeded in getting her courage raised to the sticking point, and where it must have some vent. She either had to call for milk of both kinds, or say something which might possibly have a tendency to cause William to think that she had doubted some of his statements. It was now do it or, as she thought, die in the attempt.

"Say, William," said she, "John and I used to be very fond of milk, indeed. He liked buttermilk, while I had preferred sweet milk. If you

have milked the cows, and have some handy, please let me have it."

"Certainly, certainly," said William. "I have the necessary material here," and putting a spoonful of dirt out of the sack into the hopper of the same little contrivance, he pushed a different button and out came her glass of sweet milk. Then he put another spoonful of dirt into the hopper, pushed a button just around the corner of the machine, and out came John's glass, brimful of butter milk.

Chapter II

On the morning of the third day, John and Mary were up bright and early, looking around over their old, old homestead. There had been many changes and they were so apparent as to be easily noticeable. In fact, the changes were so great that the farm was not in the least like what it once had been. They could hardly believe their own eyes. It seemed to them that it was but yesterday, that the children had made the groves ring with their shouts of joy, as they ran in and out, up and down, and everywhere. Now there was not even one child to be seen.

"John," said Mary, "It is not just the proper thing to be always asking questions, but I am going to ask William a few more the very first time the opportunity is presented. I am going to ask him where his children are, and learn if they are in the Resting House. If he has them in there, then I am going to tell him to bring at least two of them here for me to raise up. It will be so much more like the old home."

John told her that he was willing for her to ask anything she might wish, but for her to be sure and not be so inquisitive at the very start. Still he did not think that the questions about the children, and her request for at least two of them to be brought from the Resting House so that they might be cared for by her, would be overdoing the matter or even out of the way. As to himself, he was, admittedly, a little lonesome, and thought a couple of the children would liven up the place anyway.

As for William, he had noticed that there was something bothering the minds of both his guests, and, apparently without any intention upon his part walked leisurely up to where they both were sitting. There the very first words spoken by him were the ones which both John and Mary most wished.

“John, or rather I should say grandpa,” said he, “it certainly has changed considerably here since you were a boy, or the time when you and my grandma were struggling so hard, tilling this farm here so as to make the ends meet year after year. Now if you will only ask questions, so that I may know that the things which I may be able

to tell you about are of some interest, I will sit down here and tell you all I can."

In this manner grandma was given the long-wished opportunity to put her question to William regarding the children, and she said:

"William, when John and I were here before, the yard was filled with children. In fact, they were everywhere. We had lived up to the theory of the good president of the United States, and made visible proof of our citizenship, by raising twelve children. It is true that it was rumored that there were some families where there were more children, but there were none such in our part of the country, and I sometimes believed that the other folks were imposing on the president by not sticking to the truth. John once said that the president had formed an 'Ananias' club, or something of the kind, and that some of the other folks, who claimed to have larger families than we had, should be initiated as charter members, or at least carried on the roll as honorary ones.

"Now William, where are your children? I will tell you my reason for asking the question, and hope you will not in the least be offended. If they are in the Resting House, I wish that you would go and get two, and bring them here, so that I can

tend to them. That will make it look so much more like the old home. And then, if you and John wish to take trips around over the country, with your bird machines, or whatever you may call them, I will stay at home here with the children and do up the chores, and teach them to read and write, and such like. It would be such a pleasure to have them here. Do please go for them, William."

"Grandma," said William, "if you will take hold of that bush right there so that you will not fall off the stone where you are sitting, I will tell something to you, which I trust will not lead to any bad effect, or not in the least shock your nervous system. People long since have quit raising children, that is, in the way or manner in which they were once brought up."

"The good Lord, William, hush! I do feel like fainting," shouted grandma, as she clung to the bush to keep from falling off the stone. John saw the effect of the statement upon his wife, and gently taking her arm told her it would be well for her to refrain from interrupting William till he should be through with his statement, and then told William to tell them more of the changes which had taken place on the farm.

Then said William, "Well, I do not like to cause any excitement, or affect anybody's nerves by what I may say, and which will seem so strange to you; but which has come to the rest of us here so very gradually, by the way of but one little surprise after another, that it all caused but little comment at all. The complicated scientific developments of one day were considered of the simplest kind the next, and hardly worthy of notice. We were all keyed up to such a point that there was nothing in the way of discovery, or scientific development, which caused even a ripple of astonishment. In fact, they were all looked upon as only the natural outgrowth of man and for the advancement of the whole human race.

"Let me see, your first term here ended, or rather you were put to sleep when Mr. Roosevelt was president. Just before beginning your rest you had in all probability heard through the newspapers that he contemplated taking a hunting trip over somewhere in the interior of a continent, which at that time was called the wilds of Africa, I believe."

"Well," said John, "that is right; the president was a great man."

William, after the interruption, continued: "Mr.

Rosenvelt, after an enormous amount of advertising and preparation, went on his hunting expedition. It was a surprising success, but not in the manner that it was planned or anticipated. It was the very reverse. The president went with the intention of killing all the large animals he might be able to find, but he did not kill or destroy any of them at all.

“His tents were all set up one afternoon, and all his firearms cleaned, and loaded, while they were around blazing fires after supper, so as to be ready for use the following morning. This was one of those yellow moonlight nights when everybody enjoys the soundest of sleep. Just before day the president was awakened, as if by some one calling his name. Looking out of his tent through an opening, he saw one of the largest of all elephants standing right at his very door. He could not reach his elephant-gun, or any of the other firearms, as they were all on the other side of the tent. Just as soon as the president was good and wide awake, the elephant spoke to him and said: ‘Mr. President, you are a big man. You kicked up as much dust in your own country, before coming here to our country, as a whole herd of ele-

phants can in this country, where it is always so dry and dusty.

“ ‘I wish to extend to you the full freedom of our forests, our plains, and even the deserts themselves. They have been ours for all ages. We have eaten leaves from boughs of the trees, and on their fruits we have feasted. From the brooks and clear streams, for centuries we have quenched our thirst. We all welcome you here. Many of my dearest friends accompany me, that we may extend to you our hands as a token of love. We now initiate you into that ancient and honorable order of ‘Love.’ This order is founded on justice, and built on doing right; take that which is yours, but not that which is another’s; injustice and wrong can never be recompensed or made right; he that destroys for the mere sake of destruction alone, is a cruel monster indeed.

“ ‘Here is the olive branch, we give it to you. Wear it next to your heart. It has neither thorn to give pain, nor poison to take life. Treasure it as you would the gift of a dying mother. Preserve it as if it were your passport to heaven, and the key to eternity.’ After finishing his friendly call, the elephant and all its companions quietly walked back in the forest. It was a long time before the

president made up his mind as to just what he should do under the circumstances.

“Then the guns were all unloaded, and they, with their ammunition, were dropped into the sea. Over the door of his tent the word ‘Love’ was inscribed. The animals visited and paid him homage, and the birds sang their songs of joy without fear.

“Wise men from all the countries of the earth were selected and called by the president to his forest retreat. The unlimited resources of nature, abounding in the forests, were discovered and analyzed, and the varied properties of all these strange plants ascertained. Just as he, in his own country, had made the sandy deserts to blossom and bring forth fruits, so did he, on his return, bring with him in his ship, vast quantities of new vegetables, plants and fruits, before unknown to man, which in the course of time, by nurture and careful propagation, supplied the whole country with the most delicious fruits, which you see here, and the bright colored flowers which you have seen in my garden.

“The most cherished of all things which he brought home, was the olive branch, which he had received from the elephant. And now, its outlines

are traced upon his granite monument, overshadowing all others, as a symbol of peace, while the towering stone itself is a token of reward, reared in honor of the good which he did for all mankind."

"This is all very nice indeed," said grandma, "but how about the children?"

"Well," said William, "as I wish to take John to the City of New York today, I will tell you about them at some other time. You can amuse or entertain yourself as you wish, in our absence. We will be back before the shadows mark the hour of three."

Chapter III

The discerning powers of man—sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste, are so closely related and connected, and of such delicate construction, that the very enormity of a demand, made upon the one, may for the time being require the energy and strength of all the others to preserve from total destruction the one so taxed.

So sweet may be the strains of music to the ear, that the unnatural demand made upon the sense of hearing may become so great that it alone can not respond, so as to be able to bear the burden alone and unaided. Again, the eye may be so suddenly and unexpectedly loaded with some appalling sight, by which its powers of vision are so heavily taxed, that the assistance of all other senses must be had, or total destruction of sight would inevitably follow. And this is true as to all other senses.

The needed strength of a bar of steel to be used in some great structure is ascertained by mathematical calculations, based upon known data, and

he measured bar is so united with others as to form one whole. But where is there a structural architect who would so design his temple, that each particular bar at times of greatest strain, might not be given more strength from others close at hand?

So it was with John and Mary, when they met William at the door of the marble Resting Place upon their awakening. One, and only one, of their five senses could be used at that time. This one was sight. To this one the others for a time loaned all their strength and energy, for its preservation. So great had been the changes, that sight, alone and unaided, must from its own weakness fail to bear the burden, and total destruction of necessity follow.

And it was this which caused John and Mary to give but little heed to what was taking place around them, and do, mechanically and unquestioned, that which was suggested by William. The taking of small globes tendered by William was only the following of a suggestion. The task imposed upon their sight was so great that no heed was taken as to how they were being carried or the means or method by which it was done. It was simply to them as a matter of course.

It is extremely doubtful whether or not, at the time, they in fact realized that they were sailing through the air with the ease of a bird, and at last landing at their old home.

But in the course of time their sense of sight had become relieved, and the powers, by nature belonging to the others, restored, each to its own. John had become himself once more. When William proposed that they take a trip to the City of New York, and again requested him to take the little globe, which he handed to him, and told him to blow into the tube and they would fly to the city, John must now ask how it was done, and the means and method of its doing.

And he said, "William, there is one question which I wish to ask you. You have been so delightfully patient in answering all others to Mary, that I would like you to explain to me how it is that this little globe, insignificant as it looks, will enable us to rise above the hills and the trees and travel at our will?"

"I will gladly do that," said William. "It is simple enough now, but when it was first discovered and its use began I, like the rest of mankind, had my doubts and could not be led to believe that such a thing could be done till I was forced to do

so, by actually seeing it used by others, and then at last by myself.

“You will remember that I have already spoken of the gathering of that great body of wise and scientific gentlemen, by the president, in the forests of Africa, and of some of the wonderful achievements in the animal and plant life which they accomplished.

“Now, on their return to this country that body of men was, by law, established as a permanent organization. Its members were selected on account of their research and scientific attainments, from all the nations of the world. As time went on, this assembly was divided into several classes, or divisions. Those most suited and adapted for research along certain lines of investigation and discovery, were selected and appointed to such, and were required to dig deep into the unknown world and bring forth that which might be for the benefit of man.

“Among the subjects for investigation, and for which one group of the scientific men were selected, was that of philosophy. The law of gravitation was the first topic taken for analysis and dissection, that its various properties might be ascertained.

“Years were spent by them upon this seemingly simple topic alone. In the end, however, it became fully understood. All its elements were found and simplified, and thus became known to all. Just how it might be overcome, and the exact method by which that could be accomplished, was also learned, and has now become of practical and daily use. It is a hidden mystery no longer, and so simple is the operation that it is astonishing that it had not before been discovered by some school boy yet in the teens.

“You would have observed long before this, had not all your enegeries been in use in another direction, that while I carry one of these small globes around with me, even though in my vest pocket, that my tread is so light that the tender blades of grass do not even yield to the pressure of my weight.

“The mysterious force incased within each is of itself, by the addition of a small amount of breath from the body, sufficient to overcome the power of gravitation. Then the body to which it is attached becomes of the same heft as the atmosphere. To me, my moving about on the grass is, as near as I can describe it to you, like a person treading water.

“While there is no breath in the globe, its power is no more than that of an equalizer of weights, by the process of merely overcoming gravitation. It is then in the nature of a mere toy; but when the breath is blown in, its tendency to rise is so increased that it is sufficient to carry any object to which it may be attached, along with it.

“There is neither strain nor pull, as if lifting one’s self by the arms. In fact, there is no perceptible difference to the one using it, as to whether he is standing on the top of the tender blades of grass, or going through the air. It is all one and the same.

“If the flight is high, you simply force more of your breath into the globe. If you wish to alight, press the globe and the force will be lessened as the breath is forced out. The higher you may go the more breath is required, since the law of gravitation is, ‘the greater the altitude, the rarer the atmosphere.’

“Now these instruments are so constructed as to be regulated with and adapted to the density of the air as found at the surface of the earth. Go tell grandma that we are ready to start now, and that we will be gone but a short time. Tell her

we will try to get back before supper time, and that you will tell her some of the sights you will see.

Chapter IV

It appears as one of the foreordained principles established by Providence himself, that but few extraordinary men shall live at the same time. It is not therefore astonishing that the appearance of one whose talents for producing that which is good, and entitled to be great, so far in the lead of what might be called the common herd of mankind, should be singled out and serve as a model for all the rest. Such is the case at the present time, and ever has been since the beginning of the dawn of civilization. This is one of the well authenticated facts, proven by history both ancient and modern, secular and divine.

The ages of discovery have had their cycles, while the ingenuous minds are yet in their infancy and constantly endeavoring, in time of peace, to so apply the forces of nature by utilizing its hidden power as to minimize its unwarranted draught upon the bountiful supply provided for the benefit of man. And in that long, long path of scientific research it is fortunate indeed that the stopping point of one

is the starting point of the next to follow, and this is as though the one first starting should be permitted to live for ages. It is the relay horse which is fresh, and amply able to travel at the top of his speed over that part of the course allotted to him and there deliver his rider to the fresh one in waiting, that shortens the hours of travel and accomplishes the desired result.

So it was that in the establishment of that scientific organization, and its continuation during the one hundred years which had been passed in sleep by John and Mary, that such wonderful strides had been made in the knowledge and uses of the contents of that vast storehouse known as the world. It is not to be wondered at when their surprises are told, as the new and varied mechanical and other inventions and discoveries were made known to them by personal experiences and observation. And it is hardly to be doubted that when they are recorded in print, to be read at the fireside, even now there will be those who will be inclined to be skeptical in a limited degree.

* * *

It was one of those fine, sunshiny days. The birds were singing in the swaying boughs among the sweet-scented blossoms of the trees, and the

fragrance of the ripening fruit was wafted high above the surface of the green-carpeted earth, thus forming a view more beautiful than the most gifted can paint upon canvas. The world and its innumerable beauties were passing beneath John and William, as if one vast panoramic performance was being given for their special benefit. It so interested John that he gave no heed to other things which were taking place. He was simply carried away with its astonishing beauty and grandeur. It was so different from what he had experienced, as it seemed to him then, only a few days before. He could not bring himself to realize that the one hundred years he had rested in the marble house should be taken into account, when considering the past. He was as much a stranger in a strange land as if he had gone to some far distant planet, where there was nothing to remind him of mother earth. Even his most exaggerated visions had been so far distanced that every now and then he doubted his own existence, and inflicted some small punishment upon himself for the purpose of self identification.

At last in the distance he saw small specks in the sky, moving from place to place, and upon nearer approach discovered they were persons like him-

self, though at first they appeared as a flock of birds. When nearing them and seeing how numerous they were, he asked William as to whether or not there would be trouble or inconvenience in avoiding collisions. As to that William told him there was no difference whatever in the meeting of persons in the air than that experienced on the ground, when all were walking; that instead of an effort to change direction by the use of his legs and feet, as when on foot, the same changes were now made and controlled by the mind alone, and that as he had not time now to explain the matter he would take pleasure in doing so at some future time, when he might be at home.

But there was a surprise indeed in store for John, for as they reached the city at the noon hour millions of people rose with their little receptacles containing their lunches, and hastened to some park where it might be enjoyed at their leisure. So numerous were they, and so close together, that it had the appearance of a cloud, and shut out the city entirely from sight.

This, however, lasted only a minute or two, and the air once more was cleared of its vast throng of freighted humanity. He and William each pressed a small portion of the breath from the globe-like

object, alighted in one of the parks also, and from the lunch which William had prepared before they left home, they partook of a hearty meal.

Years and years before John had visited this park, long before he and Mary were married; but such a change had come over it that there was nothing but the name which he recognized. There he had watched the happy children roll their hoops, play ball, row in their boats, compete in jumping contests and ride their little ponies; but that was all changed now. Even the trees which he had thought would live almost forever, had long since decayed and others more beautiful were standing in their stead. As to their names he was a stranger, for such as these had never been seen by him. They were loaded with the choicest fruits, which the children and other visitors gathered as they might please; and when an apple, peach or other fruit was pulled from a bough another immediately took its place, almost as perfect as the one which had been taken.

There were no graveled walks or signs to keep off the grass. They were now useless, as the playing children flitted about with the grace and ease of the humming bird, and did as little damage to the flowery beds over which they passed. When

John went to the old swimming pool where he himself had bathed, he saw the people flitting about upon its surface as though it were a frozen mass of ice and they were skaters upon its glassy surface. The boats were gone, and in their place were machines filled with laughing crowds, and as they traveled on the smooth surface without so much as causing a ripple, it only increased his astonishment.

So much that was so strange and new to him had by this time been seen by John that William could understand from the expression of his face that he was beginning to doubt if he should ever again see his wife and be at their home. The human mind can only stand so much of a strain, and as the limit had almost been reached, William again told him to blow in the globe and they would return home, so as to be there in the early evening. This they both did, and rising far over the city, sailed away for their home.

Chapter V

While William and John were gone on their trip to the City of New York, Mary had in a quiet way been making investigations on her own responsibility, in and about the premises. This of course she had a perfect right to do, not only because it was her old home, but before leaving in the morning William had told her that she might look around and amuse herself just as she saw fit during their absence.

She first watched the two sail away, just like she had so often seen pigeons and doves do before, and when they were entirely out of sight she said to herself that she would look over the farm, and see just what changes had been made during her absence, or stay of a hundred years in the marble house. The sun was shining just as it had done a hundred years before, and the gentle flower-scented breeze tempted her to start for her bonnet, which had been left in the house.

In going to get it she passed first through the room where they had dined several times, where

the curious producing and cooking combination rested upon its small, three-legged stool, near where John sat when at the table. This she looked at for a little while, but could not get her own consent to handling it, as that might in some manner get the machine out of order, and she would not be able to repair it, as she was an entire stranger to its construction and the mysterious workings of its innermost parts, which she had described to John as a "do-funny-setting-on-a-three-legged-stool."

The next room visited was the sleeping apartments of herself and her husband. As she had already spent two whole nights in it, there was but little of interest which had not been fully examined by her, and it appeared to be just about the same kind of household furniture which she had owned and used before she had taken her rest.

But there was a door opening into this room from the one where William slept, and she thought that it might be that the early start which he and John had taken that morning had prevented William from making his bed, or otherwise putting his room in order. This she would do now, and make William feel that she had not forgotten how a house should be kept in order. Besides, he would

think that she was useful about the premises, too, and that would relieve her from some of her embarrassment, at least; for she had always entertained no special liking for one who was not willing to make his own way, or was inclined to sponge off of others.

So she went into William's room, not in the least as an intruder, but as one having a perfect right. She felt as though she was going to bestow a kindness upon him, as well as perform a duty devolving upon herself. It was this consciousness that nerved her on, though she did have a queer feeling or intimation somewhere about her, that she ought not to intrude. But now she was in. The furniture was not such as she had used in her own room, either in appearance or construction. There was a table, chair, lounge, bed and the usual coverings. But what frail looking things they were! It appeared to her that they were constructed of straw, such as grow in the oats, rye and wheat fields, and would not even bear the weight of a hand, let alone being used for the purposes for which such articles were usually made.

There was John's one thousand dollars in gold on the table, and she had not so much as thought of it since the man at the marble building had

handed it to him after they were awakened. She must see it, yes, she would count it over so as to be sure there had not been any of it held back by the man, for she knew that John himself had not taken the trouble of seeing that the amount was exactly the same.

So on going close up to the table she began picking it up one piece at a time with her right hand, and placing the shining pieces in the left one, until they were all counted and found to be right. More than that, right beneath the pile of gold she found one of the same kind of little globes which she had used when she came home over the houses and hills, with her husband and William. It looked so simple, that she at first was in doubt as to whether it was one fully completed, or one which had only reached that stage in its construction which is termed "started."

She had gone this far, and now it would not do any harm if she made a further investigation, and learned on just what principle the thing worked, if it was one, she thought.

She picked it up with her right hand while the left still held the gold, and was a little surprised she did not experience some sort of a shock; but the only thing which she could perceive was that,

as soon as she had it in her hand, the gold seemed to lose its weight, and be of no heft at all. That was pleasing indeed to her, and she was agreeably disappointed, as some people are who do but little damage while doing wrong. But there was that little tube on the side, just like the one she had used, and into which she had "puffed" a little air. The more she looked at it, the simpler the "contraption," as she now called it, appeared. A little ball about the size of a walnut, with a short tube about half an inch long on one side. How simple!

She raised it to her mouth for the second time before she could get her mouth partially filled with air, and her courage to that point which would permit her to blow just a small amount of breath into it. More than that, she was in the house; but of course she would not even like to go up to the ceiling. After a few minutes' more examination she placed the tube in her mouth, and gave just one of those littlest of little puffs into the tube. As if by magic this aged great-great-great-grandmother was lighter than a feather, and rose to the ceiling of the room with all the grace of a bird. There, with her back to the wall of the ceiling, was this aged lady, with the gold in one hand and the little instrument of disappointment in the other,

looking down at the floor. She had her mental faculties sharpened as though they were now diamond pointed. What had she done, and how she should undo it, were of such importance to her, magnified as they were by the query as to what would John and William say, should they return and find her in that position. The dresses and other apparel of a modest lady were never so constructed as that they would always remain as designed, when the wearer, by accident or otherwise, should try to lie down on the ceiling of a room. And there never was a woman whose apparel became displaced, who did not take her hands and try to restore it to its proper position. This had always been true till now. Even at this critical time it was not neglected from a desire to avoid it, but was brought about solely by her two hands being otherwise engaged—the one holding the coin, and the other the object of all this inconvenience.

She was directly over the frail stand table, and its construction was known by her to be such that it would withstand but very little strain. The weight of the gold would certainly smash it to the floor. She would not, she could not endure such a catastrophe as that! No, she would hold on to this gold. More than an hour passed, and still her back

was as close to the wall of the ceiling as before, or at the time of first coming. It was awful, and the dread of what might happen was fast becoming unbearable.

Time and time again nature had made application to give her ease and release her from her woe-fully embarrassing position, but she would not accept it, for she as often had shut her teeth and vowed by all that was good, that she would not and should not faint. At last she was forced to let the gold drop; and true to her worst apprehension, it fell squarely on the table and crushed it to the floor, as though it had weighed a ton.

Poor grandma! The perspiration began to stand out upon her face in great drops, and her limbs were getting benumbed. Cold chills chased each other up and down her back, while she herself was becoming more and more desperately frantic. She had now one free hand and with it she had succeeded in moving a little, and by a great effort managed to get near the corner and just over the bed. Should she fall now, what would become of this bed? Would it be completely destroyed, as had been the table? She with her one hundred and eighty-seven pounds avoirdupois, might even

do more than that. She might crush through the frail-built and glassy house.

There she was, full ten feet from the floor, and there she would remain as long as she held to the little globe. To let it fall was easy. She knew all that was necessary was to squeeze it a little and down it would go, or at least she thought she knew it. But there was a trouble again—what if she should light on top of the bed?

Now think for a minute: Here was a lady fully seventy-five years old. She had been reared on a farm and lived there all her life, except the time which had been spent in the marble house. As to that time she did not know whether to count it as so much time which she had lived, or not. She, with all her age, pride and self-will, was up there and could not get down in any manner which she could figure out, with safety to herself and the bed below. Yet something had to be done, for as vigorous and strong as a giant may be, there is a limit upon his endurance which, when once reached, renders him powerless as a babe.

Grandma had now reached her limit. She gave the tiny ball a little squeeze and sank downward to the bed, as light as a feather. Her pleasure knew no bounds. But she, like all others of her

kind are apt to do when a vast strain is taken from the nerves and a great load lifted from the mind, did just what she should not have done. She stood on the bed almost ready to shout, and was going to clap her hands for joy; but as they were nearly together the hand holding the little ball automatically opened and grandma, with a crash, went through the bed to the floor.

Chapter VI

It was that sense of womanly pride for well doing and in caring for each and every article, whether useful or ornamental, which had been entrusted to her care, that for years had been one of John's happiest subjects and topics of conversation, when mentioning Mary's innumerable excellent qualities to those of his neighbors who were less fortunate in the selection of a wife. She had often heard him talk in her presence, and oftener still the statements which were made in her absence, were repeated to her and it was the full realization of this which now caused her to fear that she would hear it no more.

As she fell through the bed, the last bit of breath in the small instrument had been forced out, and there it lay among the rubbish. Just what she should do now was as much of a query as when she was forced against the ceiling of the room. If she again picked up the instrument, would it not take her to the ceiling again? And for all she knew, might it not by chance take her through the door

and out of the house, and then even carry her away?

While these questions were being asked over and over again, in her mind, and she was making the most desperate attempts to formulate some kind of an excuse or apology which might in some way tend, or at least in part tend to justify or lessen the enormous consequences of her experimental disposition, and keep from her fair name the appellation of a meddler, she was gradually backing towards one of the chairs. On reaching it she sat down. Yes, she sat down. The frail chair, like the stand table and bed, was broken into a thousand pieces, and grandma found herself sitting upon the floor.

“For the lands sakes,” exclaimed Mary, “am I a mad bull in a china closet? Is it possible that before John and William return all the contents and the house itself will be wrecked by me? What, oh, what shall I do? Poor me! poor me! I almost wish that I had not been wakened, and if it was not for John I’d go right back to the marble house and rest for a thousand years. Indeed I would, indeed I would.”

It was while in this position, sitting on the floor, with her mental faculties about to collapse, that

she made up her mind, or rather the merest remnant of her mind, that a breath of fresh air would do more toward the restoration of her shattered nerves than all the grieving over the things which had been done and for which there was no help, than anything else. Acting on this suggestion, she crawled back out of the house, just as she had come in. She was in such a condition that she was actually afraid to even walk on the floor, for fear of breaking through. She would not so much as take a look at any of the articles as she was passing out, for fear that her sight alone might bring on their destruction.

On reaching the yard, she clasped her hands over her heart, and looking toward heaven, said aloud, "Lands sakes, what will they say, what will they say?"

It is not possible even to conjecture the full consequence of this ill-timed and awful experience, had not something else taken place at that moment, which had a tendency to and did direct all her attention, and that, too, so completely as to relieve her mind of this terrible strain.

As she was looking up, she saw a great many small objects flitting about in the air, so far above her. As they came closer and closer, she saw they

were beings like herself. Gradually they came nearer and nearer to the earth, and finally selected the flowery garden, William's chief pride among all his possessions, as their lighting place. To this garden, on the day before, William had taken his grandma and explained to her many of the most beautiful varieties of flowers she had ever seen. Hundreds upon hundreds were in full bloom, and they were so large that they seemed to carpet the entire garden. It had been hard indeed for her to pass along the narrow walks, although she lifted many of the tenderest plants aside. And now what would this great multitude of persons do? There they were, following no path, but crossing and re-crossing and even dancing upon them. Grandma had been entrusted with the care of the house, the home and all, for the day. She was its keeper, and must of necessity be responsible to William on his return.

Now she, like any other resolute woman, started for the garden fully determined to control herself if possible, and the others as well. There was one thing which was settled, and that was that the intruders should leave. They were jumping, running, turning hand springs, and even playing leap frog over the rarest and finest flowers. They were

having an old-fashioned picnic and like everybody who has ever gone to such a place, they were not welcome, and not wanted at all.

Just before she reached the garden wall, one of them came to it and said to her: "Grandma, I see you are in trouble, and I will right the matter for you, while you sit here and see us enjoy ourselves. If you will just look at these young folks enjoy themselves, it will come around so you will be as happy as any of them. We will not in the least injure any of the flowers, or anything else. You see that William is one of the nicest of persons and has the finest flower garden in the world. He is so kind, too, that he has invited us to come and enjoy ourselves whenever we want to and as often as we please."

At this grandma took a seat on a large stone and watched the young folks have their fun and frolic. At first she was a little puzzled as to how it was that they were getting around over the flower beds as they did, and at the same time doing no injury. In fact, their weight did not cause even bending of the stems of the flowers which they would now and then stand upon. But she saw in a little time that each of them had one of the little instruments just like the one she had used in leaving the marble

house, and the same as she had found up in William's room.

She had observed that the young man who had been talking to her had taken from his pocket another little thing, about the size of one of the pieces of gold which she had let fall on the stand table, and placing it to his mouth, appeared to be talking into it, though she could hear no sound.

In a few moments the young man came to her again and asked her if she had not been in trouble a short time before, up in William's room. This was a surprise to her, for she had said nothing whatever to him about her experience with the stand and the bed, or the gold, or breaking of the furniture, but she could not get the matter out of her mind and had been thinking of the sad event, feeling very bad over it all the time.

There was one thing grandma had always done, and she had no reason to quit at this time; so she told the young man just what had happened, and how she hated it, how bad she felt over it, and how distressed she certainly would be when John and William came and saw what she had been doing. Then the young man said he had fixed the matter for her, and for her to think no more about it. He also asked her to accompany him to the

room so that he might show her the same had been done, and thus relieve her mind entirely.

At this grandma had all kinds of feelings of mistrust toward the young man. She thought he might be trying to get into the house and then carry away all the gold, and might possibly do greater mischief than she herself had done. But there was but one thing to do, and that was follow him, as he had already started, and so she went slowly after him, with all kinds of terrible apprehensions in her mind.

When they had reached the room where the stand and table and chair had been so completely demolished by her, to her amazement she saw they were all in the same condition as when she had first entered the room. More than that, the gold was in the same little stack, over the same small instrument on top of the stand table. Now she was amazed! She did not know what to say or do, but had made up her mind in a moment not to bring about another such a state of affairs as she had once done, so she requested the young man to come out of the room at once with her, so she might shut the door. This he did, and they went back to the stone, where she sat down and looked at the merry-makers in the flower bed and watched

their funny and amusing antics until they had their fill of pleasure and were ready to leave.

Then again the young man came to her, and told her that he would explain to her what was giving her so much trouble. He told her that he had read her feelings and knew what was on her mind, when he had first met her. He said that when she saw him take the little circular instrument out of his pocket, he did that for the purpose of having one of the merchants in a distant city send her the same kind of furniture that she had unintentionally broken, and place the same in William's room, carrying away the broken parts of that which had been destroyed, and that that had been done before he invited her to take him to the room.

At this statement grandma threw up her hands, and tried her best to say something to him, but the only words which she could possibly utter were, "Lands sakes, what will they say!"

The young folks now flew away, and she was again alone. She went into the garden to make sure there had been no injury to the flowers, and as soon as she was satisfied that they were all as perfect as when William had shown them to her, she

breathed one long breath and again expressed her surprise by saying, "Lands sake, what a place, what a place!"

Chapter VII

It was but a very short time after the departure of the visitors who had the picnic in the flower garden, that grandma saw William and John coming out in the yard, where she sat upon the grass under one of the trees, earnestly thinking over the strange occurrences of the day. While seated there she had raised her knees so that when she placed her hands upon them she could rest her head, and by shutting her eyes completely close the world from view and thus be enabled to think without interruption. And this is the reason that she did not sooner see William and John as they came toward her.

The first words were spoken by William, and he said: "Grandma, how have you enjoyed the company of your great-great-great-great granchildren today? I made special arrangements for them to come to the garden and have their picnic; but as I did not think of it before John and I had started, I just called them up as we were going and told them that it would help entertain you if

they should come, and they promised to do so, thanking me for the privilege as they were starting off to go to their homes.

"Lands sake, John!" said Mary, "what does this mean? Does William know just what has taken place here today? Does he know all about it?"

"Why Grandma," said William, "I do not want you to worry any more about what has happened here while we were gone. The breaking of the table, chair and bed is a matter of no consequence, and besides, one of the young gentlemen had it all repaired, so that it is as good as ever. So come along, and we will go in the house and have our supper, for you must be hungry, since you have eaten nothing today since we left, and John and I had only a small lunch. So come on in."

There was nothing else to do but go in and sit at the table if she wanted to retain the good graces of William, though she did it with some degree of reluctance. But William was in the best of humor, and the supper was prepared in the same little buttoned machine which sat on the three-legged stool near the end of the table. Grandma was so astonished at what William had said to her that she was afraid to do much talking. She was thinking of some questions to which she intended

trying to get an answer from John just as soon as supper was over. The meal finished, she asked John to come out in the yard, as she would like to speak to him alone for a little while. They both went out and sat down on the grass under the shade tree, and Mary began.

“John,” said she, “I can’t get the hang of things here at all. How did William know anything about what happened in his bedroom? Did you go in there before you came to where I was, when you got back from New York?”

“No, Mary,” said John, “we had not gone into the room before we came to you. What has happened up in his room? Has there been a fire, or has he been robbed and somebody carried away something? I’d like to know something myself, for all I can think of out of the way is that as we were starting home I saw William take some little round thing, about the size of a dollar, out of his pocket, and as he smiled, said to some one: ‘Oh, don’t let her worry over it, for you can get some new ones while she is looking at the others having the frolic in the garden.’”

“For lands sakes!” said Mary, “did you hear William say that?” “Yes,” said John, “but what is it that makes you so excited?”

"Well, lands sakes, John!" said Mary, "if you knew all that I know, you would be somewhat bewildered yourself. I have had an awful time here today all by myself, and if it had not been for you I do not know but that I would be in the Rest House, to be awakened at the end of a thousand years."

"Well now, Mary," said John, "if you have seen many more strange things than I have witnessed today, I can hardly tell how you can even be as well as you really are. Why, I saw a million people all flying through the air at once, and all going out to the park to eat dinner, carrying small lunch baskets, and just ready to sit down and eat dinner as soon as they alighted on the ground. William and I ate our lunch with them, and saw so many fine flowers and other things that it would take me a very long time to tell it all to you. The strange part of it was that the people who had come there did not try to keep in any path, but went over and on top of the flowers, just the same as though they were walking out on the gravel walks, and did not even bend the flowers down at all."

"Well now, John," said Mary, "that ain't anything strange, for there was a party of young folks came here and danced all over William's fine flow-

er garden and did not hurt it at all. And one of them fixed up everything in the room which had been smashed all to pieces by me, in a minute. But I do not know where we are. If we are dead, we ought to know it; and if we are alive and back home, we certainly should be finding it out by this time. I tell you, I am going to ask William the very first chance I get, and have some more explanations, or I am in favor of taking the thousand dollars, hunting out some new location and clearing up another farm, just as we did this one a long time ago.

“Why, I do not mind telling you much, but in that room I had a terrible time. I was up against the ceiling for most of the day, laying flat on my back and thinking all the time that you and William might come in and see me. And you know how my dress would have been flopping around, so you could see my stockings. Then me setting on the floor looking at all the things broken to smash, and afraid to even throw the rubbish out of doors, or try to clean up the room. Why John, land sakes, I do not believe I can stand this much longer. We will have to go somewhere. It won't do, I tell you, it won't.”

Just then William came up smiling, and said:

“Grandma, I have been out today showing John some of the changes which have been made since you lived here before, and I tell you he would hardly believe his own eyes. Now that you are both here together, I will make some explanations which will let you see into some of the things which appear to be so mysterious to you now, and will tell you so you can get the hang of our manners and customs and the way things are done now-a-days.

“In the first place, you used the little ball which I gave to you at the door of the marble house, and by having the actual experience with it, you saw how it worked. But as to its different parts and the manner of its construction, there is no reason why I should go into details now. It is enough that you know that it will suspend or counteract the law of gravitation. As to how long it required that scientific body to perfect it, is a matter of no concern now that it is perfected and in every day use.

“But there is another thing which I wish to tell you about, as I know you are eager to know how it was that the young man knew what had happened to you when you were up in my room. You saw him take from his pocket a small instrument and

put it to his mouth, and probably heard him say a word or two, althought it was not necessary for him to speak very loud.

“With this he spoke to me while John and I were sitting in the park at New York, and told me that he had read on your face and from the expression of your eyes, just what had taken place in the room, that you had been up on the ceiling for quite a while, and had hard work to get your own consent to press the little globe so that you could get down, and all about the furniture. I then told him to have it replaced, speaking in and through the same kind of an instrument which he had used. Then he said he would entertain you at the wall of the garden, so that you would not know when the new things were brought and placed in the room and the broken ones removed.

“Now I will show you one of the speaking instruments such as we used, but you must not, as yet, try to use it. You are getting along just as well as any other person in the world under the strange circumstances, for we all know that when people are taken from the marble house, they are not acquainted with all the improvements and discoveries which have been made during the time they were resting. So you must realize that the

information must be given to you a little at a time. Or, in other words, the mind of a person can only grasp so much at one time, and if the attempt be made to feed it faster than it can digest the information, something serious is liable to happen, such as some of the mental machinery getting out of repair.

“The young people you saw dancing in the garden were all your great grandchildren or their descendants. They had requested me to have them come and call on you, for they all wanted to see you and hear you talk, and tell just how you had kept house and raised your family, and how it was that you cooked your victuals, canned your fruit in the summer and kept it for use in the long winter months, which they have read about so much in their histories. Of course, it is only the oldest of them who can read out of a book, for methods of teaching children have undergone as much of a change as anything else, if not a little more so.

“I think that you must have noticed that none of the young people you saw here in the garden did any talking, except the one who had the conversation with yourself.”

“No,” said grandma, “they did not talk at all,

and I could not help thinking that it was because they could not."

"Well now, I will tell you about that," said William. "We do not now have to use the voice at all, when we are close enough to the person with whom we desire to talk, that the eyes and face can be seen. It is a reading of thought without the expressing of them in or by words. You know there is only a little noise made when we talk in a moderate tone of voice, and it is that noise which you and I contrive into the thought itself, which the one conversing with us is trying or endeavoring to convey.

"It was the same scientific gentlemen of whom I have spoken, who, by the careful study of the animals and their means of conversing, at last led up to the astonishing fact that a man had a worse method of conversing with his fellow man than even the very lowest order of the animal creation possessed. Of course, it was astonishing and humiliating at first, and the statement almost led to the dissolution of the whole body of scientific gentlemen; but in a short time they seemed to be willing that some experiments might be made, and the matter be settled in that manner.

"For the experiment, as it was then called, a

great number of young men and women were selected. These were obtained by means of examinations which were conducted all over the country, and from among the various applicants who might possess the finest nerve centers in their make up. After the requisite number had been chosen, they were offered large rewards if they would in every way comply with the strict rules which were adopted, and by which they were to be governed during their time.

“Each was required to select another, with whom he was ready to be locked in a room for one year. They should have no conversation with each other, or with anyone on the outside, and the place where they were confined was so remote that no human being was to be permitted to get close enough to be seen. Of course, there was the enclosure, which was free at stated times so that they might take the necessary exercise to prevent the loss of health; but that was all.

“The women were placed in rooms in pairs the same as the men, and while there were some of them who could not stand the strain for the full year, there were a great many who did. It was required of them that when they were released, if they were able to converse by thought alone and

without any signs or spoken words, they should receive a sufficient amount of funds to enable them to live at ease for and during their lives, with one provision, however. That provision was that each of the men should be willing to and did marry one of the ladies who had served the same apprenticeship as he had. In addition to this, there was a bounty given for each child that should be born to them, and then there were some extraordinary inducements to the parent or parents who should succeed in raising the child or children without the use of sound or sign, to converse with others raised in the same manner.

“Neither you nor any other person who did not know the same to be a fact, will believe that the whole scheme worked like a charm, and when the year was at an end, these young people were married and pledged to use no sound or sign when conversing with each other, under a penalty which led to the stopping of their pension if the pledge were violated.

“As soon as the institution had turned out one set of graduates, that is, as soon as the parties had remained in it for one year, there were others ready to take their places, and so the process was kept in such a flourishing condition that others

were established in all parts of the country, and it was not many years until it became a fad to be able to read the mind, as it was called. Then it became a sign of good breeding and the rich heartily approved of the method, sending all their children to the institutions to have them acquire that art.

“In the course of a great many years, the poor as well as the rich had to use that method of communication of ideas, and it became considered a disorderly act to speak out loud in the presence of company. It was by that means that the reading of thought became universal without speech or sign, which is of much greater convenience under most all circumstances. Except when the parties are not close together it is now universally used among the most enlightened people all the time; but when you wish to communicate with some person who is far off, you use the small, flat instrument, as was done by the young man today, when he was speaking to me while I was in the City of New York. I will more fully explain the matter to you at some other time, when we have leisure.”

Chapter VIII

After taking a good sleep on the night following her experiences of that, to her, eventful day, Grandma was up bright and early in the morning, and fully determined that she would put a few more questions to William as to the manners and customs which appeared to her to be in vogue, and which were giving her surprises all the while. And of her intentions she plainly told John. Now John was an unusually cautious individual, and had always been disposed to experiment and find out many things for himself without taxing another for explanations. When he suggested this to his wife, she only said, "Now John, do you suppose for one minute that I will get myself in the kind of position that I was in yesterday, when if I had had my own way about it we would have learned all about most of the things by this time? No sir, I will not have it or anything like it happen to me any more. I am bound to have it told, and told right away."

When they sat down to breakfast she was ready

with a question, and asked William what was the matter with the country, as she had noticed no school house, and worse than that, no children going to and from school.

William replied: "It will take quite a long time to fully explain that to you, but I will begin now and tell you some about it this time, and some other time explain the matter more fully."

Grandma told him to go on, and this is about what he said:

"You remember what I said to you about the people being instructed so that they were enabled to read the mind, and were not then required to use speech or signs, and the manner in which they had taught their children to do the same thing? I will now tell you that for a great many years there has been no such thing as a school, as there was at the time you were raising your children.

"By a similar process it was ascertained by these scientific men that it was possible to absorb information by one mind directly from another, by the simple process of inoculation and association. All you have to do now, is to take from the veins of one who is learned in any profession or calling, some of his or her blood and inject it into a child and let the child remain or associate with the

scholarly individual in a closed room for a limited length of time, when it is found that the child possesses all the knowledge and information upon every subject possessed by the one from whom the blood was drawn and with whom the association had taken place.

“Now I know that this may seem strange to you, but you will remember that in you former residence here it was well understood that the association of children, the one with the other, always had some such effect as that of spoiling a very good boy by permitting him to associate with those possessing rude ideas and ways which were not in the least desirable for your children to have. And it was this same scientific association, that made this discovery, or rather discovered the uses to which this natural tendency of the child might be used to its advantage. Not only that, but the long and tiresome delay formerly necessary in letting the child attend school year after year, has entirely been disposed of.

“There is, too, a more satisfactory result which has been brought about in this line. A parent, or one entrusted with the care and raising of a child now, can select his type of a man which he or she desires his or her child to be modeled after, and

one possessing the information which it is desired to be imparted to the child, and have the operation performed without any danger of having the child acquire any knowledge of such a kind or character as will be a detriment to it in its after life of usefulness.

“As a matter of course, it was a long time before this system was so completed that it became one of the fixtures of our civilization, and arose to that class of scientific research which placed it out of the reach of ridicule. And now, grandma, that is the reason of the disappearance of the little red school house, which I heard my grandfather say once stood just around the bend in the road. For there is no one now who would submit to the custom of letting their children go to school for ten or twenty years, and be treated as so many wild animals, when all that is necessary now is to perform the operation and follow it with the week or ten days of association, to give to the child the entire wealth of information which had cost the professor a lifetime to acquire.

“And there is another thing to which I will now call your attention, for fear that it may not be spoken of. That is, by reading of books in my early life I saw you had some men who were call-

ed physicians and surgeons. If you should remain here for many years, you would never see a doctor with his medicine case. We have, of course, some surgeons, but very few. One of the principal reasons for that is that our food, as well as our water, is absolutely pure.

“This was also one of the discoveries of the same scientific association of which I speak, for by actual observation of the animals in the interior of Africa, and other parts of the world, it was found that there were no deaths among them, except those that were brought about by accident or the cruelty of man. And it was apparent that there were no medical men among them.

“It was further shown, however, that at times there were some among them which grew or became sick, and when this happened the animal selected some herb, which it ate and which in every case brought about the necessary change to restore health.

“These plants were found, and classified by botanists, and their different properties analyzed by chemists, until it was possible for a man to have his garden and his flowers, every one of which had in itself some property which, if taken in its native state, would do for man just what it had for ages

been doing for the wild beasts of the forests. That is the reason why you will find in my garden so many varieties of plants and shrubs. Of course, it would not be safe for you to undertake to use them, but for me it is entirely safe, for their properties are known by all who have been raised in the last twenty-five years, or those who have been inoculated by blood from one of the professors who knew all their qualities. That is one of the necessary qualifications of any and all well informed men and women at this time.

“Grandma, you used to give the baby teas, made from hoarhound, and catnip, and other herbs, and they always got well. There is no good reason why these simple teas, which were well capable of curing a baby, would not cure a man or woman when grown. The system in the one is the same as the system of the other, only that the one in the man is that much more able to assist the simple tea and the stronger stomach to throw off that which is injurious to it, and which causes the sickness. It is like the old-fashioned method of teaching at school. You first teach the child the letters of the alphabet, then it is given words to spell. In this it has the twenty-six letters of the alphabet as a basis, and from it must of necessity construct all

its words. When it grows older the words get harder and their uses and combinations more and more difficult; but it is the same old twenty-six letters which must be used in their construction.

“As the child is given the simple tea of one herb, as it grows older it may have the tea made from the mixture of two herbs, and so on till the simple concoction grows into a compound produced from the mixture of many and varying herbs. This may now be necessary in desperate cases where the sick person has himself neglected to take heed at the first call of nature for the one herb, which, had he taken it at the time, would have given him relief and made him well. And one more word, grandma. If you have an ill, or ailment, at its first appearance go to the garden and look it over carefully, and the call of nature will designate not only the kind of plant, but the identical one which it will be absolutely safe for you to use. Eat from it till nature again tells you that you have a sufficient quantity in your stomach, giving the necessary assistance to nature to work, or enable it to work, its own cure.

“I must stop here and look after some other things, but will doubtless be able to tell you more in the future.”

Chapter IX

“Well, Grandma,” said William, “now as to the children. This learned body of scientific gentlemen who had been called together by Mr. Roosevelt, did not all turn their entire time and attention to plants, and the ascertainig of the various qualities of fruits they found, but as all the varied animals had become so gentle that they could be associated with at pleasure, some of these men gave their whole time in making discoveries as to their means of living and reproduction.

“Among them there were several kinds which possessed qualities of restoring any part which had been lost or injured. It was discovered that there were various kinds of clays and muds, which, when the injured part was placed in them the old injured portion would by some process disconnect itself from the body, and a new perfect limb grow in its stead. So these various clays and different muds were in their turn analyzed and found to contain germs of life in its lowest forms. Of course, it may seem a little cruel, but the fact is that these

men, after making this discovery, began taking certain parts of these animals and using the parts so taken as a basis for further experiments.

“At first a leg or some other part was taken from the animal, and the part of the body from which it had been removed was placed in or covered over with this earth, or clay. In an incredibly short time it was seen that a new member was growing to fill the place and perform the office of the part which had been removed. The experiment was then tested as to whether or not the new part might not be formed by hand, and certain little avenues or holes made, so that the blood from the body might freely circulate at once in and through the artificial limb thus prepared. And after repeated attempts and trials it was made a success.

“From small parts of the body at first, the parts which were to be removed were increased in size and importance till it was possible to take one of the animals and make at least a dozen of the same species at the same operation, and each of the twelve thus constructed was as perfect in form and vigorous in life as the original one from which these parts had been taken.

“As time went on these experiments were

broadened out and animals with more complicated parts became the subjects of these experiments. As the men became more and more skilled, the tasks became less and less difficult to perform. But what I am here telling required years of the most delicate experiments, and many spent their whole lives in this study. At last it was so perfect that now a bird may be taken and divided and these artificial parts attached, until, using not more than a half dozen of them as a basis, there can be produced more than one hundred, and each one as perfect in form, as vigorous in life and beautiful in plumage, as the one from which the initial part had been taken.

“I was present at one of the entertainments given at the seat of experiment where it is most successfully practiced, about twenty years ago.

“At that time I had a fine dog, which was the pride of the whole country, and it happened to follow me on that trip. On going into the great laboratory one of the professors took a great fancy to him, and said it was one of the finest specimens of the kind he had ever seen. He then asked me if he might duplicate him half a dozen times, so that he might have one for himself and some others for some of his special friends. At that time

I did not fully understand the consequence and the nature of such a request, but at last reluctantly consented.

“Several of the attendants were called, and each taking a large portion of a certain quality of the earth, or other substance which they had, began to roll out certain portions of it, so as to resemble the respective parts of the dog. One made the legs, another the head and tail, while the third constructed the body. After the whole five of the clay dogs were made and the measurements of the live dog taken to see that they were all of the same proportions, some one part was taken from these clay images—no two of those taken being the same, so that each one of them was lacking in some particular part; that is, each one was five-sixths of a perfect dog.

“Then my live dog was placed upon one of the tables, and these men cut from his body just that part of him that was required to fill or take the lacking part of the clay dog, which was first operated upon, and it was fitted into the proper place. This clay dog was then placed in a kind of pan and shoved into something like an oven, and another piece cut from my dog and fitted into that part of the second clay dog which was missing. The

piece of clay which matched the piece taken from my dog was fitted into it, and this one, like the first, was placed in the pan and put in the furnace. Well, this went on, to my astonishment, till there was all of my original dog gone but one-fifth part, and he had been reconstructed so that he was five-sixths clay. Then his body, like the others, was placed in a pan and shoved into the oven. Grandma, you can have no idea as to just how I felt, but I could not help thinking, 'Oh, where is my little dog gone?' though the gentlemen kept on talking to me and telling me things about which I, of course, knew nothing at all. But I did not have much time to think, for in less time than it takes me to tell it to you, one of the attendants opened up the oven and gave a kind of whistle, just like he had heard me give for my dog when we first came; and out jumped six dogs, all as much alike as though they had been one and the same dog.

"Of course I was astonished, and the only thing I could do was to call 'Carlo, why Carlo!' and all six came and tried to climb all over me, just as Carlo had been taught to do all his life. There were six Carlos, looking more alike than that many twins. You would have been just like I was, I

guess, for I took hold of the hair, first on one, then on the other, and tried to pull some of it out; but it was as fast as ever, and the dogs only whined when I pulled hard.

“But when the men asked me to get my dog and leave them the rest of them, I could not tell which was most Carlo, and I wanted to take him all back home, but the men said they had agreed to perform the operation in consideration of the dogs to be given to their friends. They would let me take two of them, but said that they would keep the rest, and if at any time I should run out of dogs of that kind, they would always keep one on hand so they might be able to make more.

“When I was leaving the room, all the four dogs which I had left whined and cried, for they wanted to come away with me. For a long time I would not tell my wife as to just how it was that I had taken Carlo away alone, and when we came back there were two of him, as I knew she would not believe what I said; and, to tell the truth, I would not have believed her if she had told me of seeing anything as wonderful as that done. For a long time I kept looking and honestly expecting to find some morning that my dog Carlo had fallen all to pieces during the night, and when he was found

in the morning he would be nothing but a pile of clay; but it has not yet happened, and he has always seemed as bright and intelligent, and full of life and fun as he was before he followed me to the scientific apartments, where they are engaged in the propagation of animals in that way.

“It has not been more than two years ago since I was over to the institution, or rather, I was passing near it, and my curiosity led me to stop and see if they still had their dogs. The gentleman met me at the door and invited me in, but he failed to recognize me until I told him of the time that I had made him a present of four dogs. Then he remembered all about it, but he said they had improved upon the process, and did not use as many assistants now as they did at that time, for they were now able to run the plant by machinery, and if I wished to see it work, to have a seat, as there was a gentleman who had a very valuable team of oxen, one of which had accidentally been killed, and he was coming to have a duplicate of the living one made.

“Right then I was glad I had made the call, and it was not long before the gentleman came, leading one of the best oxen I had ever seen, right into the room. Now this room had been remodel-

ed since my first visit, and there was a machine something like the one you saw me use in preparing our dinners, only it was a great deal larger. The hopper was so large that when they put the steer into it alone with an amount of the strange kind of earth, of equal weight, it was not yet quite full. After the steer and the earth had been properly placed in that large hopper the man in charge pushed a button at one corner of the machine and the steer and earth all at once disappeared, but in about thirty minutes, at another part of the same machine, there appeared two oxen, both looking exactly like the one which had been placed in the hopper but a few minutes before. The man paid the operator for his services, drove both oxen out, and, yoking them together, drove them home.

“It was quite a while before my curiosity was fully satisfied, and many were the questions which I asked. The professor seemed to answer all of them with that degree of certainty which had a tendency to make me believe he knew. Among other things, he told me that he perfected another machine which he had used but a few times, and would show it to me. This new machine was by far the finest one that I have ever seen. Its parts were made of the finest metals and other mater-

ials, and was much more intricate than any other he had shown me. But you may believe I was astonished when he explained that that was the one which he used in duplicating children, and that he was able to take one child and pass it through and it would come out a pair of twins. Or he was able by the use of one child to make as many duplicates as he might require. The only trouble was that the same child could not be used oftener than once in every thirty days, as it took that length of time for it to fully recuperate from the little shock which was necessarily received in the process. If your attention has not yet been called to it, you will take particular pains to notice that there are a great many duplicate children to be seen in this community, although you will not see any two in the same family, as they keep the duplicates scattered as much as possible, so that those taking them to raise will not get them mixed and claim the wrong child.

“Now, grandma, I trust that my explanation has been made so that you understand it, and sometime in the future I will promise to show even more wonderful things to you. I tell you scientific research and skill have and will accomplish everything in the next generation or two, and you

can keep your mind in the proper state so that you will not in the least be surprised, excited or shocked at anything you may see or hear."

To this long and full explanation grandma breathed forth her usual, "Land sakes, John," and John said, "What do you think of that, Mary?"

Chapter X

"Now, my dear grandparents," said William the next morning, "if you will come out in the yard with me, we will sit down under the spreading tree in the cool shade and I will tell you some more of the things which will seem strange to you at first, but when you understand the matter they are such as will give you no surprise whatever."

He leading the way, they were soon all seated beneath the tree and William took from his pocket six other little instruments, giving two to each of his grandparents and keeping two to be used by himself. These were in the shape of small cups, each being one inch across its surface.

"Lands sakes, William," said grandma, "these look like they were made of glass. Why, they are double, and have water between the two parts. What in the world can they be for?"

"You will put them on and we will see," said William. Slip one of them over the sight of each eye, under the eyelid. It will give you no pain, as we use them now in the same manner that you

used to use spectacles." As he said this he put the ones he had retained for himself over his eyes and under the eyelids while grandma and grandpa did the same with theirs.

"Why," said grandma, "I don't see much better than I could with my naked eye, and not near so well as I used to do with my glasses. What are they for?"

Grandpa was always willing that his good wife should do all the questioning, so he remained quiet; but his curiosity was no less than hers.

"Now," said William, "before I give to you these little globes which were used as we came from the marble house, I will tell you that the little glass things which you have placed over your eyes are one of the inventions, or discoveries, of that same scientific society of which I have said so much. They are made for the purpose of extending the visionary power of the eye. By the use of them you will be able to see everything and anywhere, and I wish to caution you under no circumstance to look down. Always look upward, or in some other direction than down.

"Here, now, you will take these little globes, and be careful to blow but the smallest amount of breath. Yes, you had better not even blow, but

just let the breath go in a little without any blowing at all.

"Gosh!" exclaimed John, "what do you think of that, Mary? Why, I see everywhere and everything."

"Lands sakes! John," said Mary, "I see the bad place. Let's take the tarnel things off."

"Grandma," said William, "do as I tell you. Don't look down, look up."

"Why," said grandpa, "what is that I see, another world?"

"Yes," said William, "that is the moon right there that you are looking at. What do you see?"

"Lands sakes, John, I see everything on the moon, too. Just look at the people. Why, they are acting just like they were birds. I do believe the young folks that I saw dancing in the garden the other day are now having another picnic up there, and they all have the same kind of a little round thing that we have. Oh, ain't it strange! I never did see the like in my life. There are their houses, and everything else."

"Now," said William, "we will look off towards the right. Do you see the fishes in the sea?"

"Yes," said John, "and the largest ones that I ever heard tell of. And more than that, there is a

large glass house out in the very middle of the ocean, and it has a long pipe or tube reaching up from its top to the surface of the water."

"Why, John," said Mary, "don't you see the men down on the inside, and the big fishes being let in and out of the house? What can that be for, William?"

"This is one of the places which the scientific men built, and if you will look closely on the east side you will see that there are several rows of marble cases, just like the ones you and John rested in while at the marble house," said William. "In each of these cases, if you will look you will see some person who is taking a rest; but not the kind of a rest which you and John took, for you will see that there are small openings through which the air can pass, so that they are enabled to breathe while they are confined.

"There is a process in use there, by which life itself may be transferred. That is, the mental qualities of one animal can be transferred to any other, and when a man wishes to explore the depths of the seas and live as a fish for a certain length of time, he can go to this place, or some other like it, as there are a great many, and have his intellectual powers put into the body of the fish, then live as a

fish in the sea for any length of time he may desire. The bodies or persons which you see in the marble drawers along the rows in the marble building, are those of persons who are now living as fish, and the fish which you see going in and out and swimming through the water, are fish which have the minds of men in them. People often do this now, as they sometimes get tired and wish to get rested, and it is this means that is used in place of the vacation people used to take, for then they went hunting and fishing, or took trips off in some foreign country, to climb mountains or look at the ruins of old buildings. Of course, it would not do to let the mind of the fish control the body of the man, and permit it to go and do as it pleased during the time that the minds were changed, as that would lead to an enormous amount of trouble, and in some rare cases render it impossible to restore to the proper ones the lives thus exchanged. It is for that reason that the fish-minded man or woman is kept so closely in the marble case. At first this matter was overlooked, and it led to some of the most serious of consequences. There are a few of the fish which you see swimming close to the building, which have the minds of men in them now, and it is the bodies of the men to whom these

minds once belonged, and that were used for the purpose of housing the mind of the fish, that were permitted to stray away. It may require years to locate and find them. It may even be worse than that, for the mind of the fish may have taken the body of the man into the water and there been drowned. In this case there is no possible manner or method by which a restoration can be had, and the man's mind must stay with the fish forever, or until it dies, which, in most cases, is a great many years.

“There have been some experiments by which some of those who were lost were permitted to come out of the fish and occupy the body of some other man, but that was found to be wholly undesirable. For instance, the first one so tried was the body of a woman which was used for the purpose of housing the mind of a man, and when he went home neither his wife nor children knew him, and when he went around on his farm to attend to his business and do his work, he found that his body was wholly incapable of performing any manual labor at all. It was so out of place that he became disgusted, and his family called him a witch and finally ran him off the place. Even had he been put in the body of a man there would have been

no one who would have recognized him at his old home and he had no idea in the world where the body had originally come from. Even had he been able to locate the old home of the body, the minds and actions of the two men would have been so different that the authorities would have pronounced him insane and taken him to some hospital.

"It was these unhappy occurrences which led to the necessity of putting the body of the men and women into the cases, where there was no possible opportunity for the mind of the fish so to control the body of the person as to bring about death or accident, or to prevent its being at hand at the prescribed time when the period of exchange had terminated and the mind of the man transferred back again to his own body."

"Lands sakes!" shouted Mary, "I saw the ball place again. Let's take these things off."

"No," said William, "it is best for you to keep them on for a while longer. There are some other things which I wish you to see. You may now look down."

"Gosh," said John, "what do you think of that, Mary? Why, we can look clear through the earth. How strange it appears! Why, it looks like an egg, the inside rolling and tumbling about, and the

outside thin as the shell of a duck egg. And then there are come places where there is nothing at all, just an empty space. Why look! I just saw a cave-in over near the other side. What does that mean, William?"

"In your time," said William, "you certainly read about earthquakes, and what you saw over there was a small one. There are many which are quite large and do an immense amount of injury in the way of destroying whole cities, with all the inhabitants, but as a general thing the pressure of the smoke and gasses on the inside is sufficient to keep the thin crust of the earth resting upon a cushion-like foundation. When some big volcano opens up and permits a large amount of this gas and smoke to escape, the pressure is weakened and some part of the shell of the earth is without sufficient support, and naturally has to drop in. But now it has been determined by the scientific association that as soon as the whole world adopts the method of obtaining heat as we have it here, by boring down to the open space occupied by these gasses, just below the crusts of the earth, those holes will give off all the surplus gasses so regularly and gradually that the uses of the volcano

will be ended and there will be no more earthquakes."

"Look, look, John!" exclaimed Mary. "Don't you see that lump of gold right down there a little piece? Get a spade and let's dig it up. It will make us rich. Get the spade, quick."

"Grandma," said William, "do not get in the least excited, for at any time you wish you may see everything which is in the earth, no difference how far away. Don't you see the underground lakes and rivers, and all kind of rocks, and those big caves, just over there a little to the left of that great lake?"

"Well, I think that you have seen sufficient for this morning and if you will give me those little globes we will go into the house and have some breakfast."

The husband and wife both did as requested, and gave William the two small globes which they had held in their hands all the time they were seeing the many strange sights. But the strange part of it was, that as soon as they had parted with the globes, they could see nothing more through the little instruments which were over their eyes than with any ordinary glasses or spectacles. Though both would have liked to ask another question or

two, they thought it best not to do so, inasmuch as William was always so kind and painstaking to impart the knowledge at times which suited him, and also furnished them plenty of food for thought, so that there never was a time when they were left alone when they were without some important subject which they might discuss to their hearts content.

Chapter XI

"Now, my dear grandparents," said William, "there is one more instrument about which I desire to tell you. Here it is. Each of you will take this small tube and place it in the left ear. Do not push it in, but gently insert the small end, just far enough so that it will not fall out."

This they both did, and grandma as usual said: "William, there is nothing to this, only it tickles my ear the least little bit. What is it for?"

"Well grandma," said William, "that is also one of the instruments which that same scientific association of learned men devised for the purpose of enabling persons to hear much better than they can by nature. In fact, you can hear everything in the way of sound which is made at any point in the world."

"But," said grandma, "I do not hear any better with it in my ear than I do without it. What is the matter with the one you gave to me? Say, John, can you hear with yours any better than with your own ears?"

Before John had time to answer, William said: "You are not ready for using it as yet. If you will take this same little globe, and let the very smallest portion of a breath in it—do not blow—you will then be ready to hear something. But before I give these globes to you, I wish to tell you that the band is playing in the opera house in the city of St. Petersburg, and it is for the purpose of giving you an opportunity to hear the fine music that I called you out of the house and gave you these instruments.

"Use the globe now as I said, and hold it in your hand." This grandma did, and immediately became so interested, that for a moment she even stopped breathing. The world and everything else were dead to her as she was completely carried away by the sweet strains of music. She had often heard music before, but never until now did she listen to strain after strain, wafted thousands of miles on the gentle breezes and finally appearing to sink into her very soul and carry her away, as if upon the wings of ecstasy itself.

When the band finally ceased playing, she took the small tube from her ear and turning to John, said: "John, that was the finest music which was ever made, Lands sake, William, where did you

get this? Is there any more? I want to buy one so as to have it with me all the time." But William told her it was necessary for him to give further instructions regarding its uses before he would or could entrust it to her, and let her have possession of it all the time.

"For," said he, "if one should have it and not know how to use it, the most serious consequences might happen. Now, in order to use it successfully, at the time you place it in your ear you must have your mind centered upon some individual from whom you desire to hear, or upon some fixed spot from which you wish to hear just what is going on there. Of course, you may connect with several individuals at the same time, but under no circumstances must you connect with several different localities at the same moment. And what would be far more disastrous, would be to turn it loose, so that it would gather the sounds from all parts of the world at once. This of itself would make you deaf, and cause you to lose your hearing altogether. Now we will listen to the teamsters on the wharf in the city of New Orleans, and to the darkeys as they load the ship standing near the upper end of the long dock."

Grandma replaced the instrument in her ear, and

John made the same use of his. Soon there was a smile, and then one of those hearty "ha! ha's!" from John, as he said, "Well, don't it beat the world the way the darkeys sing Swanee River? I never did hear it sung that well before."

"Hush up, John," said grandma, "keep still and let us hear it all sung."

After the song had ended, William said they would now take the instruments out again, which they did.

"Now," said he, "we will listen to the soldier boys fire a salute to the commanding officer at Manila, as there is one of the large battle ships, with one of the commanding officers, just entering the harbor. Replace them and listen."

"Lands sakes," cried grandma, as she hastily removed the little instrument, "what a noise! what a noise! Boom, boom, boom—it nearly deafened me."

"Keep it out a moment longer, grandma," said William. "There is a bird singing in the park at San Francisco. You may now put it in again and listen to its warbling notes."

"Ah," said John, "that beats our own mocking bird all to pieces. Don't it, Mary?" And Mary said that it did.

“Now,” said William, “I think you may give me the small globes and also the tubes which you placed in your ears. I will take them and put them away, and will tell you some other uses in a day or so.

Chapter XII

One day when William had cause to be absent all day, though he had intended to return before the noon hour, grandma thought that she would give her husband a treat in the nature of a fine dinner. With that end in view, at about half past eleven o'clock she told John that they would go to the house and have dinner alone, and enjoy themselves once more as they had in their younger days.

To this proposition John at first demurred, but when his good wife assured him that she knew that she was fully competent to run the "contraption" which sat upon the three-legged stool, with the bag of earth by its side, he gave in and they entered the dining room.

The good wife asked John for the privilege of sitting at the head of the table, and faithfully promised to work the machine as successfully as she had seen William do, as it was certainly no trick at all. "All you have to do is to put in a spoonful of

earth," she said, "and out will come any article of diet which might be called for."

"My dear husband," she continued, "would you like some fried chicken for your dinner?" And after being told he would, she proceeded to put in the required spoonful of earth from the bag, and then pushed the same button, as she thought, that William had used upon a former occasion. But what was her astonishment when she held the plate under the spout, to see nothing but the dirt itself come pouring out. She did not understand that, and told her husband that she would try it again, that it was on account of her having failed to push the button sufficiently hard.

Again she put the earth from the plate into the machine, and gave the button a vigorous push and held the plate under the spout. The same result followed, and the well pulverized earth came out again.

"I do not understand just what that means," said she, "but will try it once more." So she re-dumped the powdered earth into the hopper, pushed the button again, held the plate in the proper place, and again it was loaded with the same old earth.

She was not to be outdone in this manner, how-

ever, and told her husband that she believed the supply of chicken was all used up. She told him to call for some other kind of meat. Then her husband said he would take a piece of mutton chop. Another spoonful of earth was shoveled into the hopper, and after selecting another button, it was pushed, as she had done with the other. This time there came out of the spout the same earth, looking as much like mutton chops as any finely pulverized earth ever did when picked up in the middle of the road.

"Lands sakes!" said the wife, "this tarnel thing must be out of that kind of meat also. You will now ask for some steak, for I think there must be a supply of that on hand yet, as we have had but one piece since we came here; and if the thing is loaded at all it certainly has more than one piece in it." This was tried with a fresh spoonful of earth, taken from the bag, but terminated with the self same result.

"Mary," said John, "maybe the thing will not work at all for a woman. Let me try it myself." This Mary would not do. She said if the thing could be worked by a man there was no good reason in the world why it should not work when she was operating it.

"Now John," said she, "do not be so choicy about what you wish to eat. Tell me that you will take a glass of buttermilk. I know the button which William pushed when you called for that, when he sat here."

John said that was all right, and that most anything at all would do, as he was getting tired of waiting and was as hungry as a wolf. Then Mary again put in half a spoonful of earth, just as William had done, pushed the same identical button just around the corner, held the glass under the buttermilk spout, but nothing but the pulverized earth came in the glass.

"Try it on potatoes," said John, "and see what effect that will have." So in went another spoonful of the earth, and another button was pushed; but nothing but the pure earth came out and filled the plate which she had held for the purpose of receiving the potatoes.

"John," said she, "you did not tell me the way you wanted your potatoes cooked. Now if you will tell me whether they are to be fried, roasted or boiled with the skins on them, I know I can make the contraption work. Now which way is it?"

"Well," said John, "I will take them boiled, if it makes no difference to you."

Another spoonful of dirt went into the hopper, another button was pushed, the plate held under the spout, but only caught so much dirt.

"Now," said the wife, "there must be something wrong with this machine. I never heard of a machine before which would work all right for one person and not do anything at all for another. Let me look the thing over some, and then try it again."

"Mary," said John, "it may be that there is a time lock arrangement on it, and if so it will only work at stated times. You know we came in here a half hour before twelve, and as it is just noon, try it again. Please give me a small piece of ham."

"All right," said his wife, "and suiting the action to the word, put in one more spoonful of earth, and touched the "ham" button but with the same old results—dirt and nothing but dirt, came out of the machine.

"It can't be that," said Mary, "I do not see any clock attachment to it anywhere. Now call for something else. There is something in its cupboard, somewhere. What will you have?"

"Well," said John, "give me a 'corn dodger' if you have some on hand." The corn dodger but-

ton was pushed, and the same pulverized earth came out, as it had done each time before.

"Now," said John, "do get up and let me try it. I tell you I do not think that it can be worked by a woman. I do know that a man who has a wife who is as good a cook as you are would have no need in the world for one of these things. Just you let me try it once."

The good wife was a little slow getting up from her seat at the head of the table, for of all things in the world she hated, it was to acknowledge defeat. But she did as her husband had requested, and he himself sat down in her place.

"Now, my dear wife," said he, "what will you have for your dinner? Will a nice piece of fried chicken set well on your stomach?"

"Lands sakes," said she, "anything will do, as I am awfully hungry. Please give me something to eat, and in fact most anything will do." Then John put a spoonful of earth in the hopper and pushed the button. But the result was just the same as it had been with the wife—nothing but dirt, dirt all the time.

"Gosh!" said John, "Mary, what do you think of that? Why, we will starve unless William should come home. There is nothing on the place to

cook, and even if there were there is no fire to cook it with. In all the time we have been here I have not seen an ant, or a bug of any kind, and now I know the reason. Why, they would just starve to death. I will try once more on some simple thing, say mush and milk. Will you have a bowl of mush and milk, my dear wife?"

"Yes," said she, "I would like to have two bowls of good mush and milk, one for you and the other for me." Into the hopper John put a heaping spoonful of the earth, and held the mush bowl under the spout, but nothing but the pulverized earth came out of the machine.

"Well now, Mary," said John, "we are certainly outdone. Can it be that we did not watch William as closely as we should, and get the hang of this machine, as often as we saw him use it? I guess we had best go out in the orchard and get some fruit, and put dinner off till William gets home. It may be that he is entirely out of eatables, and has gone to his grocer to lay in a new supply. He certainly will be home before long, so let us go on out, as we surely can make one meal out of the fine fruit which we saw out in the orchard." So saying, they both left the house.

But just as they had gotten out of the door, they

saw William coming; and Mary said, "John, for the lands sake, do not tell him anything about trying to work the little 'contraption.' It will never do."

"All right," said John. "Now Mary, he will never find it out unless you do the telling yourself."

"Now grandparents," said William, as soon as he reached them, "I did not intend to be gone so long, and as I expect you are both very hungry we will go in the house and have our dinner." To this they both assented, but Mary kept a close watch upon him, to see just how it was that he fed the things which were to be eaten, into the machine. But look as closely as she could, she saw nothing. For William went in at once and, sitting down at his accustomed place, said:

"Now Grandma, what will you have for dinner?"

"You will please give me a piece of fried chicken, William."

"All right," said he, and taking a spoonful of the very same earth which she and her husband had been running through the machine time and time again, put it into the hopper, and held the plate under the same spout as she had. Out came a fine

thigh of chicken, looking as though it had been fried in butter. This he passed to the badly disappointed lady, for as hungry as she was, she did wish that nothing but dirt would come down the spout and out on her plate. He now served dinner, in the same manner as he had done so often before. But on a little more elaborate scale, for grandma had tried to use most every button on the "contraption" in filling her orders.

After dinner was over, William said: "Grandma, if you will take my seat here I will now show you how to use this machine, as it is somewhat complicated. But before you come, I will tell you it is one of the discoveries, or inventions, of that scientific assembly, about which I have spoken to you so many times before. Now come on and take my seat here at the head of the table, where you will sit for many years, and pass around the many good and wholesome things which may be produced simply for the calling."

Grandma took the proffered seat, but she had no idea in the world that it would work any better for her than it had before, just because William himself was present.

"Now, grandma," said William, "that little machine within itself is nothing. You might sit

where you are all day long, and do your very best and not be able to get enough to feed a cricket. I was in hopes that at some time when I was absent you and your husband should have made the trial, and been able to verify my statement. You will now take this little globe and blow just the least amount of breath into it, then put into the hopper the spoonful of earth, hold the globe in one hand and push the button with the other, and it will bring forth just the kind of food which has been called for. More than that, you can repeat it as often as occasion requires and thus obtain any quantity you wish. Now, please give me a glass of milk."

Grandma took the globe, placed the earth in the hopper, just as she had done when she and her husband were at the table and making such desperate and unsuccessful efforts to obtain something to satisfy their appetites. Then the little globe was taken in the left hand and the button pressed. Out came the earth just the same as it did when she had so often tried it before.

"William," said she, "it will not work for me at all."

"Now Grandma," said William, "you did not follow my instructions at all. It will work for you

just as well as it will for me or anybody else. Blow a little breath into the globe. You failed to do that the other time. Try it now, and be convinced. Then grandma blew some breath in the globe, placed it upon her lap, put a spoonful of earth into the hopper, and taking hold of the globe again with her left hand pushed the button with her right. To her astonishment out came the glassful of the sweetest of milk, all covered over with thick cream.

“Lands sake,” exclaimed Mary. “John, I told you I could work it as good as anybody.”

“Gosh, Mary,” said John, “but you could not do it when you tried it when William was not at home.”

Chapter XIII

William had by this time fully explained to his great-great-great grandparents many of the discoveries and inventions which were amongst the most important that had been made during the time they had been in their marble cases, and at rest in the marble house. He had fulfilled his mission, for the present at least, and was himself going to rest for one thousand years.

It was one of those mornings which even in our day is filled with sunshine, the sweet songs of birds, odors from ripening fruits, and the healthy, invigorating scent from the perfume-laden flowers. The whole world seemed as if it had been converted into a paradise. Everywhere the waving grass, the leaves of the trees and the fine smelling flowers in the garden were laden with honey dew, and the busy bees were gathering and storing it away. The humming birds were flitting from flower to flower, the lark had returned from his soaring to get the first peep of dawn, and was now resting upon a waving bough, trilling forth his song of love.

“Grandparents, “said William, “I wish to talk with you this morning, and fully explain to you some of the intricacies of the little globe you so often have used. Simple as it doubtless appears to you, both as to its construction and its use, it has powers with which you must be acquainted in at least a limited degree, before it is safe to entrust it to you and leave it always in your possession. And now I will proceed to tell you something about this, the most important of all discoveries and inventions. Here is one for each of you, take them and heed my sayings, and under all circumstances follow my instructions.

“The mechanism and construction of these are the most important of all which the scientific association, in all its years of toil and labor, was able to produce. With them in your possession there is but little which can be accomplished. They furnish the foundation of all others which may be used, and its absence renders all others worthless.

“Power is the one element which causes all heavenly bodies to revolve, the waves of the sea to roll mountain high, the earthquake to make the world tremble, the sun to give forth its brightest rays and keep each star in its proper place in the great universe. Without it all would be disorder

and chaos itself. Yet great as it is, and as diversified its uses, it remained merely local till it was ascertained by that learned body that its transmission was a possibility. To the end that it might be accomplished, years and years of scientific research and experiment were prosecuted, until at last, as with the dawn of the new creation, it became known and its intricate process fully understood.

“Until that fact was made known all power in use by man was secured by his own efforts, and accomplished by the harnessing of certain of the elements in such a manner as to bring about their utter destruction. There was the consuming of the coal by fire that the water might be generated into a steam to move the engine, to cause the gasses to come forth that light might be had, or electricity loaded upon wires and carried to its destination. It was a system of destruction and unwarranted invasion upon the supplies stored in the bowels of the earth, without even the slightest possibility of their restoration when utter exhaustion should eventually take place.

“Forest after forest was hewed down, and the giant trees converted into that which in a few years rotted and became part and parcel of the mother earth again. To replace those decayed varied parts

and parcels into which it had been sawed and hewed, more forests were felled until the groves, 'God's first temples,' were literally removed from the whole face of the earth.

"Down deep into the bowels of the earth man dug, and brought to its surface the black and shining diamonds, ton after ton, and by combustion rendered it a worthless mass of smoldering embers and heaps of ashes, in order that power might be had to turn the wheels of progress. Man's sole enjoyment, his every pleasure, his ultimate design and purpose were founded upon destruction alone. It appeared that the sole and only cause for his existence was, that the beauties of nature and the handiwork of God might be destroyed, and the world fitted for the habitation of owls and bats alone.

"Yet that all-wise providence in the beginning foresaw just such events, and implanted in the mind of man, the crown prince of all destruction, the one element alone which would and should lead to the ultimate preservation of that which He created. He gave to man that untiring energy, coupled with genius, the love of research into the hidden mysteries, and that understanding by which

the laws of nature might be interpreted, and the ability to apply them.

“For untold centuries the vast law book of nature was unread and destruction continued the pastime of man. And had it not been for the hearty welcome given in the African wilds by the elephant, and the utterance of its speech of welcome, it would doubtless have continued for ages yet to come. It was those few words which brought peace, stopped the intended destruction of life and led to the appointment and selection of that intelligent, learned and wise body of scientific men, and the vast good which has followed for the benefit of all mankind.

“The law of gravitation, that vast force which requires each particular thing to remain still, had by the same power applied, given to others motion. Its weight will lift, and its very stillness move. That universal law is everywhere, and its proper understanding known to all.

“These small globes are so constructed that the breath of man, when forced within, gathers all the latent power of the universe itself and causes it to become the servant of mankind. The pressure of the atmosphere upon land and sea combined, form the motive power to carry his body through space,

gives distance to his eyes and transmits all sound at his bidding. Without it, man is man alone; with it, he is king of kings, with the world and other planets as his possessions.

“Alone, he can sit in his door yard and by the use of the shallow, dish-like cups I now hand you, see to the very uttermost ends of the earth, and into its innermost hidden parts. And by the use of the small tube to be inserted in the ear, his power of hearing is so increased that the tread of a fly on the opposite side of the earth, is as readily heard as the boom of the mightiest cannon.

“Simple as these all appear to you in size and construction, the force possessed by each is such that the most dire results will follow their wrong or improper use. Both the small glass-like cups for the eyes and the tubes for the ear are utterly useless at all times when the one who desires their aid has not the small globe in his possession. The globe is itself nothing without the breath of life blown into it by the party seeking its assistance. The breath of one person will have no effect at all while the globe is in the possession of the other.

“With these instructions I turn them all over to you, to use as your own and as your inclinations may desire.

“This farm, the place where I was born and upon which I have spent my whole life, is to me the dearest spot on earth. Over its small hills as a boy I have played, chased the rabbit to its hiding place, and the squirrel to his hollow far up in the trees. The birds cheered me with their music, which sank deep in my heart and made of me a better man. From its cool spring I have quenched my thirst year after year and watched its trickling stream flow towards the mighty ocean, there to be swallowed up in its embrace and become as nothing.

“From the heavy laden trees, weighted with their mighty loads of fruits, I have eaten from the labor of others, and in return for such kindness of my ancestors I have planted other orchards that those who follow me in their turn may be benefited and delighted, and sing praises of my good conduct.

“But oh, what changes have come in my time! It is a new world, short as the span of fifty years has been. The hills alone are witnesses of my coming and of my departure, and I trust of my return again. All else has passed and gone, leaving the storehouse of memory well fitted with happy thoughts, both of the things done, and those left undone. It is from the very depths of my soul

that I can say that I have made a good fight, that the battle is over, the victory won, and now I am ready to restore that which is yours to you, and go to that Resting House of marble and there remain for one thousand years. Just what may be in store for me on my awakening, no mortal can tell, no imagination conjecture. It is with a feeling somewhat akin to sorrow mixed and mingled with an element of joy, that I bid you a last farewell."

THE END.

